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RETAIL PRICES AND WAGE RATES - JUNE QUARTER 1967

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of privately owned and government owned houses, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1952-53 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

JUNE QUARTER 1967

There was an increase of 0.8 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from March quarter 1967 to June quarter 1967. The index number for All Groups rose from 144.4 to 145.5. For the twelve months ended June 1967, the All Groups increase was 2.7 per cent.

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between March quarter 1967 and June quarter 1967 is shown below.

Food Group

The Food Group of the index increased from 154.3 to 155.7, a rise during the quarter of 0.9 per cent. Price increases were recorded for beef, lamb, pork, bread, potatoes, onions, and soft drinks, while a price decrease was recorded for mutton.

Clothing and Drapery Group

The group index rose 1.1 per cent from 123.8 to 125.1, the chief increase being in women's winter clothing.

Housing Group

The index rose from 163.2 to 164.2, an increase of 0.6 per cent. The rise was chiefly due to increased costs of home ownership and of house repair and maintenance.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The index showed an increase of 0.6 per cent, from 116.5 to 117.2. The rise in this group was attributable to increased costs of some household appliances.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group showed a rise of 0.6 per cent. The group index rose from 156.0 to 156.9. Increases in costs of petrol and weekly magazines were the main reasons for this rise.

The Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals from March quarter 1967 to June quarter 1967. Percentage increases were as follows: Melbourne, 1.6; Perth, 1.3; Adelaide, 1.2; Sydney, 1.0; Hobart, 0.9; and Brisbane, 0.8.

Since the base year, 1952-53, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Brisbane and smallest in Sydney. Percentage increases from 1952-53 to June quarter 1967 were as follows: Brisbane, 45.5; Hobart, 43.3; Melbourne, 42.9; Perth, 40.1; Adelaide, 38.9; and Sydney, 37.8. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 40.6 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities, and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate industrial authorities from time to time, and prevailing basic wage rates (which have been determined in part by price movements) have been shown in previous issues of this Bulletin. A recent decision of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to eliminate the separate concepts of basic wage and margins from its awards removed any remaining link between the index numbers and wage rates. The Commission added \$1 per week to all wage rates for adult males and females prescribed under existing awards, the increases to operate from the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 1967.

Following the Commonwealth wage judgment, the industrial authorities of the various States have granted wage increases to employees under their awards. In Queensland, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission increased wage rates by \$1 per week by way of a "general ruling" which applied from 3 July 1967. In all other States likewise, excepting Western Australia, the increase applied was \$1 per week for adult males and adult females.

In Western Australia the minimum weekly wage payable to adult male workers under certain awards was increased by \$1 per week, and wage rates for adult males and females not in receipt of the minimum wage were increased by 60 cents per week, as from the beginning of the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 1967.

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0)

Period		Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>							
1957-58	..	113.0	107.8	123.9	108.3	120.5	114.4
1958-59	..	119.8	109.4	128.4	109.0	123.6	118.2
1959-60	..	124.2	111.9	132.6	110.6	125.6	121.2
1960-61	..	130.4	115.1	137.6	111.3	129.5	125.4
1961-62	..	130.8	116.7	140.5	113.0	133.3	127.3
1962-63	..	129.8	117.0	144.0	112.8	134.4	127.7
1963-64	..	133.1	117.8	145.2	111.7	135.2	129.0
1964-65	..	141.5	119.5	149.0	112.7	140.9	133.9
1965-66	..	150.9	121.0	158.3	115.0	148.7	140.4
1966-67	..	153.5	123.7	162.8	116.5	155.8	144.0
<u>Quarter</u>							
1966: June	..	151.1	122.2	159.7	116.1	152.0	141.7
September		151.0	122.4	161.1	116.0	154.7	142.5
December		152.8	123.4	162.5	116.2	155.5	143.6
1967: March	..	154.3	123.8	163.2	116.5	156.0	144.4
June	..	155.7	125.1	164.2	117.2	156.9	145.5
Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) on Previous Quarter							
<u>Quarter</u>							
1966: June	..	-0.4	1.1	0.6	0.9	-	0.2
September		-0.1	0.2	0.9	-0.1	1.8	0.6
December		1.2	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.8
1967: March	..	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6
June	..	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period		Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>								
1957-58	..	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1958-59	..	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1959-60	..	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1960-61	..	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1961-62	..	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
1962-63	..	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	124.5
1963-64	..	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	125.7
1964-65	..	128.8	132.2	133.9	128.6	127.6	133.6	130.4
1965-66	..	133.1	137.1	140.4	132.7	132.5	138.3	135.2
1966-67	..	136.3	140.7	144.0	136.9	137.9	141.2	138.8
<u>Quarter</u>								
1966: June	..	134.0	138.5	141.7	134.4	135.3	139.3	136.5
September		134.7	139.1	142.5	135.0	136.3	139.2	137.1
December		136.2	140.1	143.6	136.5	136.9	140.1	138.4
1967: March	..	136.4	140.7	144.4	137.2	138.3	142.0	138.9
June	..	137.8	142.9	145.5	138.9	140.1	143.3	140.6

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food and Grocery Items, Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1966	April 1967	May 1967	June 1967
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>Groceries etc.</u>					
Bread, white (unwrapped & delivered)	2 lb loaf	16.0	16.0	16.0	17.0
Flour, plain	2 lb pkt	12.7	13.4	13.4	13.6
Flour, self-raising	2 lb pkt	15.6	16.1	16.1	16.1
Tea	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	30.9	30.8	31.0	30.9
Coffee, instant	2 oz jar	44.6	44.3	44.8	46.1
Cocoa	8 oz pkt	31.5	30.5	32.0	32.0
Sugar	4 lb pkt	37.3	37.4	37.3	37.3
Rice	1 lb pkt	13.1	13.6	13.5	13.4
Jam, plum	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin	24.2	24.6	24.6	24.6
Jam, marmalade	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin	26.7	27.5	27.2	27.5
Honey, liquid	16 oz jar	27.0	27.8	27.8	27.6
Oats, rolled	2 lb pkt	38.2	38.5	38.3	38.0
Cornflakes	1 lb pkt	34.8	35.8	35.7	33.2
Sultanas	1 lb pkt	34.3	34.3	35.0	35.3
Peaches, canned	29 oz tin	30.8	30.1	31.3	30.4
Pears, canned	29 oz tin	30.7	30.1	31.3	31.1
Sardines, Norwegian	$3\frac{3}{4}$ oz tin	15.7	16.1	16.1	15.8
Salmon, local	16 oz tin	41.2	42.6	42.6	42.4
Camp Pie	12 oz tin	20.0	19.1	20.4	20.4
Potatoes	7 lb	38.6	38.2	34.3	61.9
Onions	1 lb	9.6	8.0	7.8	8.7
Soap, laundry	20 oz pkt	33.8	31.9	33.0	33.6
Vegemite	4 oz jar	26.9	27.3	27.4	27.8
Baby Food, canned	$4\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin	8.8	9.4	9.3	9.6
Peanut Paste	4 oz jar	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.0
Peas, green, canned	$15\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin	23.0	24.0	22.9	23.7
Peas, frozen	10 oz pkt	29.5	29.0	29.0	29.2
Beans, baked, canned	16 oz tin	17.2	16.8	16.8	16.9
Spaghetti, canned	16 oz tin	17.2	16.8	16.8	16.9
Soup, tomato	16 oz tin	18.5	18.5	18.3	18.3
Sauce, tomato	10 oz bottle	22.7	22.7	22.7	22.8
Pickles, mustard	10 oz jar	24.1	24.0	24.4	23.8
Biscuits, wheatmeal	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	15.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
Biscuits, milk arrowroot	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	15.9	16.8	16.4	17.0
Biscuits, dry	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	16.5	16.5	17.0	17.3
Margarine, table	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	19.0	19.1	19.1	19.1
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Butter	1 lb	50.9	51.1	51.0	51.0
Cheese, cheddar, matured	8 oz pkt	30.0	32.5	32.5	32.5
Cheese, cheddar, processed	8 oz pkt	23.8	26.0	25.4	25.1
Eggs (24 oz in carton)	dozen	63.8	63.1	63.8	63.3
Bacon, rashers, pre-pack	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	49.5	50.1	46.6	51.2
Milk, condensed	14 oz tin	20.9	20.5	21.5	19.9
Milk, powdered	12 oz tin	37.0	38.4	39.9	38.4
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered)	1 qt	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
<u>Meat</u>					
Quarter Ended June 1967					
Beef, Sirloin, roast	1b	56.3		57.4	
" , Rib, roast (without bone)	1b	48.1		50.1	
" , Steak, rump	1b	74.3		76.8	
" , Steak, chuck	1b	45.3		48.5	
" , Steak, blade	1b	55.8		57.2	
" , Sausages	1b	25.6		26.4	
" , Silverside, corned	1b	51.2		53.6	
" , Brisket, corned	1b	38.8		40.5	
Mutton, leg	1b	34.0		34.4	
" , shoulder	1b	20.7		21.0	
" , chops, loin	1b	33.4		34.3	
" , chops, leg	1b	34.3		34.7	
Lamb, leg	1b	49.4		50.6	
" , shoulder	1b	30.1		31.2	
" , chops, loin	1b	51.4		52.3	
" , chops, leg	1b	51.0		52.0	
Pork, leg	1b	58.9		60.5	
" , loin	1b	58.0		60.0	